

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 2566 – SB 2520

February 20, 2016

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Designates a portion of Soak Creek in Bledsoe and Rhea counties as a Class III scenic river for the purpose of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (TSRA).

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (011956): Deletes and rewrites the bill such that the only substantive change is the location of the beginning point of Soak Creek to start at its confluence with Georgia Branch instead of from a point approximately one mile downstream from its headwaters.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

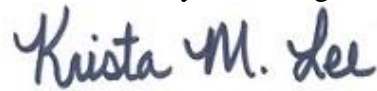
- According to the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), a proposal report, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 11-13-105, will not be required because the proposed designation is an initiative of a citizen group.
- Any impact resulting from gathering and dissemination of information to be published on the Department's website after the designation can be accommodated within the Department's existing staff and resources.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 11-13-115, the Commissioner of TDEC may seek financial assistance for the state scenic rivers system from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and other federal and local government sources.
- The bill as amended does not require any additional appropriations to the LWCF.

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- Monies in the LWCF are available for grants to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to outdoor recreation resources.
- Designating the proposed section of Soak Creek as a Class III scenic river will allow the Commissioner of TDEC to provide grants from monies available in the LWCF for this purpose. To the extent this occurs, grant funding will shift from purposes that would occur in the absence of the legislation to a purpose consistent with Soak Creek as a result of the bill as amended. Any net impact to the LWCF is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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